
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: I-3175.1/16

ATTY/TYPIST: JA:lcl

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Initiative Measure No. 1487

filed February 26, 2016

AN ACT Relating to the funding of elections and campaign compliance; adding a new section to chapter 82.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.32 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The people find that qualifying initiatives and referenda to the ballot at the state and local level has become a big business, with multiple firms receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually per campaign. The people also find that many of the firms in this industry are not paying their fair share in dues to our state like other businesses are. Through this act, the people intend to require that petitioning firms operating in Washington contribute towards supporting the vital public services that such petitioning firms put strain on.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.04 RCW to read as follows:

REQUIRING FIRMS IN THE PETITIONING INDUSTRY TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF DUES TO OUR STATE TO SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC SERVICES.

Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of compensating any individual for gathering signatures on a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition in this state, the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the business, multiplied by the rate of 1.5 percent.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.32 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In March of each year, the department must estimate the amount of revenue derived from the tax imposed under section 1 of this act and notify the secretary of state and the public disclosure

commission of the amount of such revenue to be expended as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Each fiscal year, the amount of revenue identified in subsection (1) of this section must be appropriated by the legislature to:

(a) The secretary of state for the purpose of covering the costs of processing initiative filings; and

(b) The public disclosure commission for purposes of developing and improving compliance systems and investigations.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE. The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** TITLE OF THE ACT. This act is known and may be cited as the "petitioning industry accountability act."

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